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\*Practice Limited to Federal Agencies

March 3, 2004

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Commissioner for Patents  
PO Box 1450  
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Art Unit 1634

Re: U.S. Utility Patent Application  
Application No. 09/608,066; Filed: June 30, 2000  
For: **Compositions and Methods for Enhanced Sensitivity and Specificity  
of Nucleic Acid Synthesis**  
Inventors: **ASTATKE et al.**  
Our Ref: **0942.4990001/BJD/SAC**

Sir:

Transmitted herewith for appropriate action are the following documents:

1. Fee Transmittal Form (PTO/SB/17);
2. Petition for Extension of Time Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a)(1);
3. Reply Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.111;
4. PTO Credit Card Form (PTO-2038) in the amount of \$110.00 to cover the extension of time fee; and
5. One (1) return postcard.

It is respectfully requested that the attached postcard be stamped with the date of filing of these documents, and that it be returned to our courier. In the event that extensions of time are necessary to prevent abandonment of this patent application, then such extensions of time are hereby petitioned.

Commissioner for Patents  
March 3, 2004  
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The U.S. Patent and Trademark Office is hereby authorized to charge any fee deficiency, or credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 19-0036.

Respectfully submitted,

STERNE, KESSLER, GOLDSTEIN & FOX P.L.L.C.



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BJD/SAC/shr  
Encls.

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